The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report on Air India interalia has recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs.1000 crores and induction of a strategic partner on the basis of global bids. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

932. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Punjab has acquired and handed over to the Airport Authority of India, land for the extension of the runway and terminal buildings for upgrading the existing Amritsar Airport to International standards;

(b) whether the work on this project has been started:

(c) the amount spent in this regard so far; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has prepared a feasibility report, for developing Amritsar airport to International standards which is under consideration of the Government.

Average yield of Indian Airlines

933. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines yield per kilometer is 50% higher than many international airline; if so, the details of yield of different International airlines including Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) whether Government plan to make Indian Airlines more viable in the interest of the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to make Indian Airlines more viable in the interest of the travelling public:

(i) Increased utilisation of Aircraft through:
— Increased productivity of Commanders.
— Increased availability of Commanders.
— Increased aircraft per day as a result of increased productivity of engineers.
— Launching of Alliance Air.
(ii) Attracting passengers by:
— Product improvement.
—Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies.
—Improved on-time performance.
—Dissemination of information about strength of the company.
—Attention towards safety of aircraft as well as passengers.

Financial performance of Air India

934. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India's performance during the recent years has been quite dismal; if so, the details of financial performance during the last two years and the loss Air India is likely to incur during the current financial year;

(b) whether Air India has sought a bailout package from Government to save it from total collapse;

(c) if so, the details of such package;

(d) the precise reason for Air India's failure in recent past and the steps taken by management to improve its performance; and

(e) the action Government have taken on the package submitted to it by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The details of losses incurred by